



Minutes of a meeting of the **Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Strategic Planning Group** held on **Wednesday 1 November 2023** at **10am – 12pm** via Microsoft Teams

Present: Cllr David Parker (Chair)
Chris Myers, Chief Officer for Health & Social Care
Caroline Green, Public Member
Wendy Henderson, Independent Sector Lead
Linda Jackson, Service User Representative
Gwyneth Lennox, Group Manager, Social Work
Kathleen Travers, Borders Care Voice
Lynn Gallacher, Borders Carer Centre

In Attendance: Amanda Young (Minute Taker), Adelle McElrath, Clare Oliver, Katrina Culley, Rebecca Devine, Erick Ullrich

1. APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1. Apologies received from: Amanda Miller, Colin McGrath, David Bell, Cathy Wilson, John McLaren, John Barrow

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1. **Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Strategic Planning Group** approved the Minute of the previous meeting held 2 August 2023.

3. MATTERS ARISING/ACTION TRACKER

3.1. Outstanding actions are considered complete. Members were thanked for deleting an email sent in error and reassured that incident had been reported to the information governance teams, who are satisfied that all appropriate action have been taken.

3.2. The **Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Strategic Planning Group** noted the Action Tracker.

4. DENTAL ACCESS PAPER

4.1. Adelle McElrath, Interim Director of Dentistry NHS Borders gave an overview of the Dental Access Paper discussing current issues around accessing dental care, highlighting recent government changes to funding, challenges and risks to the dental service and noting despite the current landscape, Scottish Borders is doing very well with its' provision of dental care. The service is 'pragmatically positive' about the type of changes Scottish Government is introducing. A draft Strategic Plan is being developed and will be presented to IJB in February or March.

- 4.2. David Parker thanked Adelle McElrath for her comprehensive presentation and opened the floor to questions.
- 4.3. Rebecca Devine enquired about the national impact of the new government funding discussed in the paper, in the short term, medium term and long term. It was noted that there was to be review in three months' time to assess the impact of the new 'codes' for claiming payment. Use of the codes being accessed and the volume of claims linked to these codes will need to be analysed. It was acknowledged it may take up to a year to understand the true impact of the changes.
- 4.4. Claire Oliver thanked Adelle for the paper and for sharing with colleagues, both in the NHS and SBC and noted that there needed to be activity around the framework and possible community talks linking in with the British Dental Association.
- 4.5. Wendy Henderson thanked Adelle and Morag Muir for embracing equalities and human rights in a positive way, but noted that the impact assessment could be expanded to include the most disadvantaged groups. Wendy offered to assist with making the links to the protected characteristic, communities who experience inequality and those with lived experience via the sub group and other key stakeholders. It was noted that inequalities exist in the heart of communities. Partnership working will be achieved by listening to all providers.

ACTION Wendy Henderson to link in with Adelle McElrath and Morag Muir to discuss the impact assessments.

- 4.6. Chris Myers added Equalities and Human Rights are the driver behind the work to reach out to disadvantaged groups. It was noted that dental services operate more than dentists. They provide services linking to child health, to care homes and the child smile programme in schools. Through partnership working, including the provision of data from SBC officers, the Scottish Borders has successfully been recognised as SDAI 'rural' area due to its rurality, which will bring real benefits in the future.
- 4.7. David Parker thanked Adelle McElrath for her contribution.

5. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 5.1. Chris Myers introduced the quarterly performance report, explaining that the report is structured around 6 objectives in the strategic plan. It highlights what we are doing well at, what we need to improve and drawing attention to where data is not readily available.
- 5.2. **Chris Myers gave an overview of Objective 1. Improving access.**
Rebecca Devine asked if the data could be broken down into gender and age, which may make the data more useful. Claire Oliver observed that data could form the basis of 'community conversations' and could be linked into the communications strategy. Wendy Henderson noted the performance report could be used to identify inequalities, which would allow action to be taken to address identified equalities. David Parker thanked Wendy Henderson for her useful contribution. Lynn Gallacher asked if the data could include more information around SDS and unmet care, acknowledging that it is currently a challenge to deliver on all four options.

ACTION Gwyneth Lennox agreed to take this forward

6. Chris Myers gave an overview of Objective 2: Rising to the workforce challenge.

- 6.1. It was noted that the data currently does not have a denominator to quantify the vacancies. The impact of vacancies on staff wellbeing should be considered. It is difficult to get this data consistently as there are thirty-eight different services collating data, not necessarily in the same format, which brings challenges.

ACTION: Look at adding information to the performance report about where current vacancies are. Information about where the leavers are going to may be useful. This links in with work being carried out by the Integrated Workforce Planning Implementation Group. Wendy Henderson, Erick Ullrich and Claire Oliver will link in with Rebecca Devine.

7. Chris Myers gave an overview of Objective 3: Prevention and Early intervention

- 7.1. There was discussion around this subject and the of type of reporting which should be done and what data would be most useful. Linking into communities and social prescribing activity could be useful. It was agreed there should be focus on prevention and there is more work to be done.

8. Chris Myers gave an overview of Objective 4: Supporting unpaid carers

- 8.1. It may be that data on 'unpaid carers' with recognition of both the carer and the cared for person would be pertinent in line with the strategic objective, and needs consideration. Erick Ullrich noted this data may be difficult to gather as there is not a consistent format for gathering the data. This data reporting may link back to the Carers Workstream.

9. Chris Myers gave an overview of objective 5: Improving effectiveness and efficiency

- 9.1. Wendy Henderson observed that there may need to be more definition about what 'safe at home' means, and how do we know that care is delivered equally. Further analysis of the data currently reported on may be useful as would depth of data provided. Evolving data may include women's health, linking back to gender reporting.

10. Chris Myers gave an overview of Objective 6: Reducing poverty and inequalities

- 10.1. This area of the performance report is still being developed and the lack of data was discussed. Wendy Henderson mentioned that equality impact assessments may help shape this date. Existing frameworks will already have this data captured and could possibly be accessed through these avenues.

ACTION: Chris Myers to link in with Wendy Henderson to look closer at this area.

- 10.2. **The Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Strategic Planning Group** approved the paper, with the acknowledgement that as a quarterly report, it will return the Joint Executive for further scrutiny in the future.

11. CSWO REPORT

- 11.1. Gwyneth Lennox presented the Chief Social Work Officers Annual Report. CSWO has a legal role under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, and are independent advisors to IJB. The Annual Report covers all social work activity including Adult and Children's Services. Gwyneth Lennox summarised the contents of the report.

ACTION Wendy Henderson noted that the cover paper could be further developed around the equality statement and offered to link in with Gwyneth Lennox and John Fyfe to do this.

11.2 Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Strategic Planning Group approved the report, acknowledging this had been presented and approved by SBC.

12.AOB

12.1. Linda Jackson asked about Winter Preparedness. Chris Myers reported that due to changing Scottish Government guidance, this work was started in the summer so the plans are complete for the forthcoming winter.

David Parker thanked **Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Strategic Planning Group** for their attendance.

13. The next meeting will be held on the 6 December 2023 10am -12pm.